

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

63. (Currently Amended) An oligopeptide for use in a fragment complementation system consisting essentially of an N-terminal β-lactamase fragment fused to a flexible polypeptide linker and a first interactor domain A β-lactamase enzyme fragment for use in a fragment complementation system comprising an N-terminal β-lactamase fragment,

wherein said N-terminal β-lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 26 to 188 up to amino acid 207 of a β-lactamase sequence with the following numbering convention:

His Pro Glu Thr Leu Val Lys Val Lys Asp Ala Glu Asp Gln Leu Gly

26                   30                   35                   40

Ala Arg Val Gly Tyr Ile Glu Leu Asp Leu Asn Ser Gly Lys Ile Leu

45                   50                   55

Glu Ser Phe Arg Pro Glu Glu Arg Phe Pro Met Met Ser Thr Phe Lys

60                   65                   70

Val Leu Leu Cys Gly Ala Val Leu Ser Arg Ile Asp Ala Gly Gln Glu

75                   80                   85

Gln Leu Gly Arg Arg Ile His Tyr Ser Gln Asn Asp Leu Val Glu Tyr

90                   95                   100                   105

Ser Pro Val Thr Glu Lys His Leu Thr Asp Gly Met Thr Val Arg Glu

110                   115                   120

Leu Cys Ser Ala Ala Ile Thr Met Ser Asp Asn Thr Ala Ala Asn Leu

125                   130                   135

Leu Leu Thr Thr Ile Gly Gly Pro Lys Glu Leu Thr Ala Phe Leu His

140                   145                   150

Asn Met Gly Asp His Val Thr Arg Leu Asp Arg Trp Glu Pro Glu Leu

155                    160                    165  
Asn Glu Ala Ile Pro Asn Asp Glu Arg Asp Thr Thr Met Pro Val Ala  
170                    175                    180                    185  
Met Ala Thr Thr Leu Arg Lys Leu Leu Thr Gly Glu Leu Leu Thr Leu  
190                    195                    200  
Ala Ser Arg Gln Gln Leu Ile Asp Trp Met Glu Ala Asp Lys Val Ala  
205                    210                    215  
Gly Pro Leu Leu Arg Ser Ala Leu Pro Ala Gly Trp Phe Ile Ala Asp  
220                    225                    230  
Lys Ser Gly Ala Gly Glu Arg Gly Ser Arg Gly Ile Ile Ala Ala Leu  
235                    240                    245  
Gly Pro Asp Gly Lys Pro Ser Arg Ile Val Val Ile Tyr Thr Thr Gly  
250                    255                    260                    265  
Ser Gln Ala Thr Met Asp Glu Arg Asn Arg Gln Ile Ala Glu Ile Gly  
270                    275                    280  
Ala Ser Leu Ile Lys His Trp  
285  
(SEQ ID NO: 2);

wherein said fragment complementation system is used *in vitro* or in a eukaryotic host cell;

wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment is able to functionally reconstitute with a C-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme fragment consisting of amino acids 288 to 208 up to amino acid 189 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence; and

wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment is altered from said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence by at least one amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a lysine to glutamic acid substitution at position 55,
- (b) a proline to serine substitution at position 62, and
- (c) a methionine to threonine substitution at position 182.

64. (Previously Presented) The  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme fragment of claim 63, wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 26 to 195 up to amino acid 202 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence.

65. (Previously Presented) The  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme fragment of claim 63, wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids ~~+~~ 26 to 197 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence and said C-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 288 to 198 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence.

66. (Previously Presented) The  $\beta$ -lactamase enzyme fragment of claim 63, wherein said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 26 to 197 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence, said C-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment consists of amino acids 288 to 198 of said  $\beta$ -lactamase sequence, and said N-terminal  $\beta$ -lactamase fragment comprises the amino acid substitution (c).